

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**September 30, 1999  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**99-25**

**CHP RESPONDS TO "OPERATION PIPELINE" DRAFT REPORT**

**SACRAMENTO – The California Highway Patrol today said the "Operation Pipeline" draft report prepared by the Joint Legislative Task Force on Government Oversight lacks objectivity and factual basis.**

**"I agree with Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa's Office of Member Services, which said the report contains no data supporting its contention that racial profiling is used in CHP traffic enforcement," said CHP Commissioner D. O. Helmick.**

**The speaker's office characterized the report as anecdotal and lacking in factual content, Helmick said.**

**"Our primary mission is traffic safety. Of our 8,200 CHP traffic enforcement and support staff statewide, only 40 officers are involved in Operation Pipeline," Helmick said. "We have a policy in place prohibiting the use of race as a basis to stop vehicles for any purpose."**

**"During the calendar years of 1997 and 1998, a total of 3,558 pounds of cocaine, 218 pounds of heroin, 58,975 pounds of marijuana and 3,980 pounds of methamphetamine were seized by our officers," he said. "Every ounce taken off the highway is an ounce that didn't flow into our communities and didn't affect a driver on the highway."**

**Helmick said the CHP has been working with Governor Davis for months on a method of collecting statistics on the ethnicity of subjects involved in all traffic enforcement contacts. With the Governor's leadership, the CHP is moving forward to compile an annual report and make it available to the Legislature and the public for the next three years.**

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